



The Heart of Acadiana

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 26, 2011

RE: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Eunice, Louisiana, and its nearly 12,000 residents embody one of the most unique cultures and communities in a state that makes its name on unique cultures and communities. Eunice is a bastion of Creole and Cajun cultures and considers itself home to Zydeco music, with the Jean Lafitte Prairie Acadian Culture Center, the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society and the Cajun Music Hall of Fame and Museum within our city limits.

We are also a community of strong-minded, ambitious and entrepreneurial people who dream of growth, innovation and expansion. Sadly, however, it is somewhat difficult these days for a rural community like Eunice to maintain a high national or global profile when the latest technological innovations and broadband information access are more generally reserved for larger, metropolitan areas. That's why, with the proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger promising a greater emphasis on Rural America, I must share my excitement with you.

Our local community college, Louisiana State University Eunice, is considered one Louisiana's best community colleges at a time when successful higher education institutions are at a premium. And while LSU-E has been touted for being well-connected—named one of America's Top 100 most-wired community colleges by Yahoo!—it and the rest of our community would certainly enjoy greater access to the broadband information sharing and new technological innovations promised to emerge with the joining of AT&T and T-Mobile.

Eunice strives to expand our economic prowess and improve our standing with other communities in our state. Our city's leadership places great emphasis on preserving our unique culture, but we are also of one mind when it comes to developing our economy, promoting Eunice, and helping it grow into one of the great cities of Louisiana and of the United States.

I am aware that our mayor, Rusty Moody, and our city's Committee on Economic Development have also submitted letters to you regarding the positive effects this merger will have on Rural America. Please add my voice to theirs in support of such a merger.

Sincerely,

Michelle DeRouen, President, Eunice, Louisiana Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker